
ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

DIVISION OF COMMERCIAL FISHERIES

NEWS RELEASE



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Sitka Area Office
304 Lake Street
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Time: 3:45 p.m.

SITKA SOUND AND SLOCUM ARM HERRING WINTER BAIT TEST FISHERY ANNOUNCEMENT

The Alaska Department of Fish and Game is soliciting bids to conduct a test fishery by harvesting winter food and bait herring with purse seine gear in Sitka Sound and Slocum Arm during January or February 2013. The Sitka Sound winter herring test fishery has been conducted annually since 1992 and provides updated weight-at-age information used to forecast the biomass of herring returning to Sitka Sound the following spring.

Slocum Arm is in Section 13-A, an area defined in regulation for winter food and bait harvest. In the spring of 2012, 7.1 nautical miles of herring spawn was observed in the Slocum Arm area and egg deposition surveys indicated a significant biomass of herring spawned in the area. The department is interested in collecting age-weight-length herring samples from the Slocum Arm area. This information will allow the department to evaluate the age composition and weight-at-age of the stock to make population forecasts.

The Department is seeking to harvest 50 tons of herring from Sitka Sound and 50 tons of herring from Slocum Arm. The quote **must** be based on price per ton of whole herring. The party that quotes the highest price per ton will be awarded the contract. **Quotes will be accepted until 12:00 noon, Thursday, December 27, 2012.** The harvest of bait herring under this contract will be conducted during the period January 15–February 15, 2013. The vessel used to harvest may be required to spend some time assessing the herring biomass in Sitka Sound and Slocum Arm to determine where the largest concentrations are located. Harvests will occur on larger concentrations of herring in order to attain a sample representative of the population, and multiple sets in each area may be required to achieve this goal. One or two department biologists will be on board during harvesting.

The State will be paid at the base price for any overages of any herring above the original quote amount up to 20%. The State will be paid 2.0 times the base price of the original quote on any herring that exceed 20% of the original bid incurred during the fishery. (Base price is considered to be price per ton.) Payment must be made within 7 days of delivery and must be in the form of a cashier's check or money order. Tax liability is the responsibility of the successful contractor.

Quotations will only be accepted from a current CFEC permit holder for the Southeast Alaska Herring Sac-Roe fishery, a current CFEC permit holder in the Southeast Alaska Herring Winter Bait fishery, or from a company licensed to process herring in Southeast Alaska.

The Fish and Game Commercial Fisheries staff in Sitka will coordinate program management and supervision. Requests for Quotation (RFQ) bid forms are available from the Sitka, ADF&G office upon request. In the case of equal, low bids, the winner will be drawn from a hat.

News releases web site: <http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=cfnews.main>.

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